

IS TRUTH A LIBEL?

THE PERTINENT QUERY PUT BY
REV. THOMAS DIXON, JR.The Minister speaks of his Libel Suit.
He discloses on the Woman of the
Future and Adverts to the National
Political Conventions.

New York, June 26.—Today's service in the Association hall is the last one in which the pastor, Rev. Thomas Dixon, Jr., officiates in New York until the first Sunday in September. Mr. Dixon will preach at various Chautauque assemblies during July and August. He devoted his review of current events this morning to the statement of some facts in the official record of Ex-Commissioner Koch, upon which the so-called libelous sentences in the review for May 29 were based. He said:

In view of the publicity given to the pretended libel suit of one Joseph Koch against the pastor of this church, it is due the people to whom he speaks and the wider circle of readers that a plain statement of a part of the facts underlying this case be made.

I acknowledge without discussion that I am a radical. I do not try to trim the truth to suit the jaded palates of judges or the pulling sentimentality of aesthetic fakers. I have always tried to call a spade a spade, and stand ever ready to prove it. I have never found this an easy road to travel. But it always gives the consciousness of duty done, and that is enough. No teacher of righteousness dare say more.

I have never spoken one word in this pulpit behind which there was a spark of personal wrong, hate or malice. I love men. I hate wrong. I hate a lie. I would pity and save the liar, while I denounce his fraud. I have ever sought to do my duty toward the men whom I am commissioned to save and the God to whom I answer for that commission, without regard to the fear or favor of man or devil. As I have done in the past I shall continue to do in the future.

KOCH'S COMPLAINT.

A few days ago Joseph Koch, Tammany excise commissioner, went before a Tammany police justice and swore that the following sentences from my review of May 29 were false and libelous: "The city government bids defiance to the moral sentiment of the community. Mayor Grant has just reappointed Koch as excise commissioner. This fellow was the biggest scoundrel of all the board, the one man of all men who deserved to be kicked into oblivion. He stands indicted for the violation of his oath as commissioner and should be in the penitentiary today. He alone came up to the standard of the mayor and was reappointed."

Now what are the simple facts in this man's record as excise commissioner? There are two indictments now pending at this writing on the docket of our courts against him for misdemeanors committed during his term of office, the penalty for the guilt of which is the penitentiary. See penal code, sections 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

COWARDLY QUIBBLINGS.

The only question then remaining is, is he guilty of the offenses charged in these indictments?

These indictments were found by the grand jury more than a year ago, and this man, so careful of his honor now, has fought them at every stage upon the flimsiest legal quibblings and technicalities. He has never dared to face a jury of his fellow citizens and clear his record by establishing his innocence. His legal quibblings were carried step by step up to the last court of appeals, and every court that heard the case sustained the indictment and forced him to trial. But not daring to meet a jury of his fellow citizens and clear his record by establishing his innocence, he has sought refuge in the penitentiary.

THE JUDGE'S SCATHING DECISION.

Several complaints were lodged against Joseph Koch and others for refusal to enforce the excise laws they had sworn to execute. A writ of peremptory mandamus was issued by the supreme court from Judge Barrett on the full evidence of their guilt. The decision of Judge Barrett reads as follows: "The uncontradicted testimony shows that the commissioners have neglected their duty in not deciding this and other cases brought before them. They say they have not taken unreasonable time to decide the cases, but the facts show that in this instance, upon the simplest and briefest testimony, they have taken over forty days. That was plain negligence, and it was subversive of the law in that the dealer's license had nearly expired. The fact of negligence plainly appears and the writ should therefore issue, with costs."

In issuing the writ, Judge Barrett further says: "And it appearing that the commissioners aforesaid have unreasonably and designedly failed and intentionally omitted to decide the said complaint and the questions arising thereupon, although repeatedly requested to decide the same, and that they are now unreasonably and designedly failing and omitting to decide the same, in violation of law, now it is ordered that a peremptory writ of mandamus issue. The general term of the supreme court sustained this decision, and the decision of Judge Van Brunt, presiding judge, is equally emphatic and clear. They then carried it up to the court of appeals, where these decisions were all sustained again, with costs against the defendants."

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They were indicted by the grand jury for failure to perform their duties as sworn officers, and on the pleadings the judge ordered a verdict of guilty. Judgment was suspended during an appeal. The appeal was not sustained, and as the penitentiary finally loomed up in near prospect, a Tammany legislature came to the rescue with a villainous statutory trick creating a technicality, under which Judge Ingraham, with expressed disgust, felt compelled to quash one of the indictments. The other two are still pending.

Is the truth libel? The law says not. How a man who has been devoting his time during the past two years to sneaking out of court under contemptible legal quibblings, never once daring to face a jury on the infamous charge of having "willingly and knowingly" violated the law he had sworn to enforce—how such a man can have the impudent gall, the matchless impudence, in the face of this record, to try to throttle the pulpit that arraigns a corrupt city government for its responsibility is a sublime mystery.

And when I remember that Koch is a lawyer, and knew the law he was violating, the status of his guilt is fixed far deeper than that of any of his associates. In utter disregard of decent public opinion, in daring insolence, in cold, conscienceless cheek, Joseph Koch has certainly proved himself a worthy member of the illustrious society that produced a William M. Tweed. If he continues, the disciple may yet reach the distinction of his great patron saint.

THE WOMAN OF THE FUTURE.

God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.—Genesis 1, 27.

I have been often asked where I get my sermons. Sometimes from the reading of the text in the Bible, sometimes from the affairs of life. The genesis of this one is in my mind very definite. I found this sermon in the liquid depths of a beautiful little girl's eyes. She looked up into my face, with her eyes flashing with truth and soul for right, and asked if the girls were not going to be given a chance to do something. She asked why I had said nothing about the girls in discussing the question of public education. As I looked into those eyes so full of tender sympathy with good and truth, I thought of the greater, broader, nobler happier life of the future toward which our civilization is progressing. I thought, Will not the hope expressed in those questions be fulfilled in life? With all my heart I believe they will.

The problem of the age in which we live I do believe can be solved by masculine brains. The problem of the city, the problem of the nation, the social and organic questions that crowd and press upon the heart of the age for solution will never be really solved until into their solution is mingled the heart and loving sympathy of Christian womanhood.

They talk about a woman's sphere. As though it had a limit. There's not a place in earth or heaven. There's not a task to mankind given. There's not a blessing or a woe. There's not a whole, yet no part. There's not a life, or death, or birth. That has a father's weight of worth.

The difference between man and woman is a difference which makes them complementary parts of the perfect unit. God made man in his own image, the male and female. The person of God has combined these two elements inseparably. The mind of God is both male and female. In man we have the strength that lifts and tugs and fights the elements. This is the aspect turned toward matter. In woman we have the finer qualities of the spirit, the aspect of the divine turned toward the source of spirit in God.

OUR FATHER, MOTHER, GOD.

The idea of a male deity is an erroneous one in theology. The conception which limits the nature of God to the male faculties is incomplete. God is both male and female. I have often wondered why Jesus was a man. It seems to me that God revealed himself in man in Christ, because the method of man's revelation is the depth of human need. He showed lower in seeing the form of man than he would in assuming the form of woman, thus coming nearer to those who are by their nature further removed from things spiritual and divine. In other words, the form of his revelation and incarnation was determined by the measure of our needs and capacities.

Man and woman are the two complements of the divine image. If so, it follows:

First—That their part in working out the destiny of the race is equally essential. It need not be discussed that the responsibility of the propagation of the race, therefore the possibility of a future life to the race, is equally dependent upon man and woman. If the possibility of the race's future be equally dependent upon man and woman, then their duties and rights and responsibilities in the race must be equal.

Woman is essential to the full life of man personal. Old people who have lived together as man and wife for a long lifetime usually die about the same time. They have been mutually dependent upon each other for life. Man's life is incomplete without the mingling of this female life. So, upon the other hand, is woman's life incomplete. "What animal is most fond of man?" the school teacher asked his class. A boy promptly replied, "Woman." He was not far from right; and the answer reveals a deep and solemn truth of nature.

DAMN OR BLESS.

Woman is the finer, better part of the race. She represents that aspect of the race turned toward God in its more spiritual and finer developments. The master minds in the analysis of character and motive are women's minds—George Eliot and George Sand. Woman bears trouble with greater endurance than man, because her nature is closer linked with the spirit. Woman makes a finer nurse for the sick for the same reason. Woman has greater heart power. The function of the heart is to give life and strength. Woman's function is to receive life from the source of

life and transmit it to others. Such is the function of the heart. If the heart absorbs blood, death to the whole body ensues. The heart sends the blood to every part of the body; uses none for itself. Woman's function and power is heart.

Therefore her power to damn or bless human life by the exercise of this silent and resistless force is incalculable. More great men have been wrecked by evil power of an evil woman than have been saved by the good of a good woman. Woman gives to man for good or evil the most indomitable forces of nature. The Carthaginian war in which Carthage fell was a force most heroic in the history of the world, because into the brawn of the Carthaginian warrior Carthage women poured their life and heart. They cut their hair for bowstrings and stood by the bodies of the living as they fought over the bulwarks of the dead.

GRANT, SHERMAN, McCLELLAN.

The women of a certain semicivilized island have a curious custom. When their husbands go away on an expedition they kindle a fire on the home altar, they concentrate their thoughts on the absent loved ones, with their enterprises, and keep the fire burning. The man told him then that he had a dog at home which was worth five dollars; that he would let him have him for three. The preacher thanked him, and told him the fellow got home after about two weeks, he boxed the dog up and shipped him to the preacher. He wrote him a letter saying that he liked Maria so much better than he thought he would that he would give him the dog anyhow. When woman's position is made secure that she can be as man as man, not a suppliant, not on the ground of brutal want, we will solve much of the troublesome questions that cluster around our social life.

Mrs. Beecher tells of a well to do farmer who married eleven women, ten of whom died before the husband. He is amazing to believe that it would be possible for one man to kill ten women. It is amazing that women could be found who would enter the marriage relation under such conditions. The secret was that he was a good provider. He provided a home, gave the best he had, took good care of his wife. They married him for shelter.

"FAIR BRIDE AND GROOM."

I heard of one woman the other day who managed to treat with a man on equal footing. I could not help but smile with gratification that once in the history of the world the man was the one who must yield in such a contest. The bride was Mrs. William Grove, aged forty-five, whose former husband succumbed some years ago by hanging in his barn. The groom was a wealthy farmer aged eighty. The bride held out for some time, hoping to secure a better bargain, but when she saw the proposition: She was given \$1,000 when her assent was given to the union, and the octogenarian husband further agreed to pay her one dollar a day during each winter season and one dollar extra for each child he had. She was paid by sickness. Papers to that effect were drawn up and legally signed. I rejoice that at least one woman was enabled to treat with a man on equal terms on the subject of matrimony. When the day comes when woman is independent in her personal relations with man, we will solve the problem once for all of a world's social disease that now manifests itself in our scores of divorces.

TOUCHED TO FINER ISSUES.

Let us accord to woman her need of worthy praise, recognize that her function in the destiny of the race is equally important; that her life should be therefore equally free. Let us recognize that in the history of the world the part that she has borne has been equally heroic and, aye, often of finer heroism than the much vaunted story of man's progress. Let us remember that she has displayed in peace and war as much downright heroism as ever man has displayed. Let us give to her, therefore, her meed of well earned praise.

Let woman also know her power and make it felt. Let her know it with a sense of awe and of the divine responsibility that rests upon the exercise of this spiritual function. Of her power to destroy and to damn, or to sweeten, to ennoble, to save, to bless.

The Highlanders' Constitution.

The police of Sacramento have made a lucky capture of the constitution, by-laws and journals of the highlander society, revealing most fully the mode in which these secret organizations perform their functions and execute their mandates, which are frequently a murderous character. The organizers of Molly Maguireism are feeble in invention and perfection of plans compared with these Mongolian plotters and regulators of life among the Chinese colonies.

Some arrests should follow this discovery, but it will not be strange if the peculiar capacity of the Chinese successfully to elude detection is manifested in this as in so many other instances. If of no other service, the seizure may be helpful to a romance writer who is working on the theme of a realistic story of Chinese character. The threat to put down high-binding by expelling the gangs is laudable in desire but baffling in execution.—San Francisco Call.

The Work of the Lord.

The Smithsonian institution at Washington contains some magnificent specimens of meteorites, some of them of impressive size and weight. The professional guide was explaining the nature of such objects to a clergyman from the interior: "They fall from the sky, no one knows when or where." "But are not they very dangerous, these huge stones?" "Yes, very dangerous—very: one of them might utterly destroy a large building or even a whole block of buildings." "Well," said the visitor, "I know that God is good. I have no doubt of that; but I think he is careless."—San Francisco Argonaut.

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